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MATERIAL-SAVING PIZZA BOX AND BLANK**CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

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This is a continuation-in-part application of my application Serial No. 10/431,984, entitled "Material-saving Blank and Box," filed May 8, 2003.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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This invention relates to packaging in general and in particular to boxes and box blanks for food products such as pizza and the like.

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DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

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Each year thousands of pizza businesses sell millions of hot pizzas for delivery and carry-out. The success of these businesses depends to an extent on the cost and functionality of the boxes used for packaging the product. Ideally, these boxes should be cost-effective and easy to use.

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The instant invention pertains to a blank and box that contains several structural enhancements that are applicable to a prior invention of mine disclosed in Correll U.S. Patent 6,547,125 granted April 15, 2003, and entitled "Material-saving Food Carton." As such, the structure of the instant

invention is quite similar to that of Correll '125, with deviations occurring in the particular areas of structural innovation. The preferred embodiment of the invention disclosed in this prior patent happens to be a non-fastened, non-rectangular, some-slanting-wall box having a full-length cover panel. Therefore, where applicable the disclosure, discussion, and terminology contained within this U.S. Patent 6,547,125 is included herein by this reference thereto. In addition, the instant invention also relates to a prior invention of mine disclosed in U.S. patent application serial number 10/431,984 filed May 8, 2003, and entitled "Material-saving Blank and Box." As such, the structure of the instant invention is quite similar to that of patent application 10/431,984, with deviations occurring in the particular areas of structural innovation. Therefore, where applicable the disclosure, discussion, and terminology contained within this U.S. patent application serial number 10/431,984 is included herein by this reference thereto.

One of the ways of reducing the amount of material required for making a box blank is to design the blank so that it can be oriented 180 degrees to an adjacent similar blank and then mated (or nested) along the adjacent sides of the two blanks. This technique has been done for decades within the packaging industry. One example is disclosed in Lighter U.S. Patent 2,435,283 granted February 3, 1948. This patent shows a blank having a cover side flap that has a shorter height than the side wall of the blank, thereby allowing one blank

to be oriented 180 degrees to a similar adjacent blank and then mated together for manufacture.

5 The prior art also discloses Deiger U.S. Patent 4,919,326 granted April 24, 1990; Philips et al. U.S. Patent 5,702,054 granted December 30, 1997; and Correll U.S. Patent 6,206,277 granted March 27, 2001. Each of these patents discloses a particular type of structure comprising a side wall attached to
10 a bottom panel, a corner panel attached to an end of the side wall, a connector panel attached to a bottom edge of the corner panel, an end wall panel attached to the bottom panel, and an end flap attached to an end of the end wall panel and also to
15 the connector panel.

Philips et al., in particular, depicts the structure of the pizza box and box blank currently in use by Domino's Pizza.

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Each of the above-cited prior art has a particular drawback. Specifically, Lighter discloses how to mate adjacent blanks of a particular structure but does not disclose how to mate adjacent
25 blanks having a structure similar to that of the Domino's Pizza pizza box blank (or Philips et al.)

Deiger, Philips et al., and Correll '277 disclose how to create a non-slanting end wall on a
30 box having a structure similar to the Domino's Pizza pizza box, but do not disclose how to create a material-saving inward-slanting end wall. Further, they do not disclose how to save material by mating adjacent blanks having a structure similar to that

of the Domino's Pizza pizza box blank.

5 In addition, Correll U.S. Patent 5,381,949 granted January 17, 1995, and Correll U.S. Patent 5,713,509 granted February 3, 1998, also disclose adjacent nesting blanks. However, they do not disclose how to mate adjacent blanks having a structure similar to that of Philips et al.

10 In addition to material savings derived from nesting of adjacent blanks, it would be desirable to have a cover-locking structure that requires only a minimal amount of extra material to incorporate into a box blank and also is easy to operate and
15 maintains a reasonably tight cover closure after repeated opening-and-reclosings of the box.

Philips et al. discloses a cover-locking structure comprising a tab-like projection at
20 opposing ends of a cover front flap with the projections engaging with slits at opposing ends of the front wall structure. The height of the cover front flap is substantially the same height as that of the front wall of the box. This cover-locking
25 structure is relatively material-efficient and easy to use. However, it tends to be undependable in that after the box is opened and reclosed once or twice the tab-like projections tend to no longer engage securely with the slits at the ends of the front
30 wall structure. This cover-locking structure is currently in use on the Domino's Pizza pizza box.

Another box closure structure is disclosed in Keefe, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent Application

Publication 2003/0015578 published January 23, 2003. It discloses a relatively complex cover-locking structure consisting of a tab-like projection extending from a front end edge of each of a pair of corner panels attached to a front end of side wall panels. Further, the front wall of the box contains openings for receiving the tab-like projections. The engagement of the tab-like projections with these openings serves to hold the corner panels and attached side wall panels in upright or vertical position. Still further, there is a flap attached to the top edge of the front wall. Finally, there are cover diagonal flaps attached to front diagonal edges of the cover panel. These cover flaps wrap around the ends of the front wall flap when the box is closed and, thereby, hold the cover in closed disposition.

Several comments relative to the above-described box closure structure are in order. First, the width of the front wall flap is substantially the same as the height of the front wall. Therefore, there is no material savings over the current Domino's Pizza box (or the Philips et al. box). Second, it appears that this particular structure would be cumbersome and time-consuming when erecting the blank into a box and also when closing up the box after loading it with pizza. Third, the tab-like projections extending from the front edge of the corner panels serve to hold the corner panel and side wall in place as opposed to holding the cover in place. Finally, it appears that it would be complex for consumers to figure out how to manipulate this cover-locking structure for opening

and closing the box.

5 In conclusion, it would be highly desirable to provide a pizza box and blank that overcomes the above-cited drawbacks and further enhances the box blank disclosed in Correll U.S. Patent 6,547,125, and, thereby, satisfies the need for further material savings and ease of use. Nothing in the prior art does that. However, my invention does.

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

My invention is a box and/or blank that can incorporate one or more of the following features:

15 1) A unique cover-locking structure comprising (a) a tab-like projection extending from a front end edge of a panel of a side wall structure and (b) a tab engaging means in a cover of the box which engages with the tab-like projection, thereby acting to hold the cover in a closed disposition; and

25 2) A unique cover side flap structure constituting a structure similar to that shown in Correll U.S. Patent 6,547,125 except with the minimum height of the cover side flaps being substantially less than the maximum height of the rear wall and/or side wall panels of the box blank, thereby providing a possible way to mate two adjacent blanks during the manufacturing process

30 My invention typically would be used for packaging relatively flat food products such as

pizza; however, it could take other forms for other purposes, as well.

5 A complete understanding of the invention can be obtained from the detailed description that follows.

OBJECT AND ADVANTAGES

10 The main object and advantages of my invention are as follows.

15 A main object of the instant invention is to enhance the box and blank disclosed in Correll U.S. Patent 6,547,125 entitled "Material-saving Food Carton" and make it more material-efficient and easier to use.

20 A first advantage of my invention is cost savings for the box manufacturer and/or pizzeria owner without any attendant operational inconvenience or deterioration of package integrity. This results, in part, from the shortened-height cover side flaps and the ability to invert and mate
25 adjacent blanks in manufacture.

30 A second advantage of my invention is a cover-locking structure that provides material savings along with ease of use and secure cover closure after repeated box opening-and-reclosings.

Further objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from consideration of the

following detailed description, related drawings,
and appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

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FIG. 1 is a plan view of multiple units of a preferred embodiment of the box blank.

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FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a box erected from the blank.

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FIG. 3 is a plan view of a partial section of a blank having an alternate configuration of tab engaging means.

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LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

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Within a drawing, closely related components have the same number but different alphabetic suffixes. Between drawings, like reference numerals designate corresponding parts.

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10 blank of the preferred embodiment
10a blank of the preferred embodiment
12 box of the preferred embodiment
20 bottom panel
22 rear wall
24 rear wall fold line
30 side wall structure
32 side wall panel

- 34 side wall fold line
- 36 front corner panel
- 37 fold line
- 38 connector panel
- 5. 39 fold line (bottom edge of corner panel)
- 40 front end edge of corner panel
- 44 rear end of side wall panel
- 46 tab-like projection
- 48a top edge portion of side wall panel
- 10 48b top edge portion of side wall panel
- 50 front wall structure
- 52 front wall
- 54 front wall fold line
- 55 end flap
- 15 56 end flap fold line
- 57 connector panel fold line
- 58 top edge of front wall
- 60 cover
- 62 cover panel
- 20 64 cover panel fold line
- 65 tab engaging means
- 66 cover front flap
- 68 cover front flap fold line
- 69 bottom edge of cover front flap
- 25 70 cover side flap structure
- 72 cover side flap
- 74 cover side flap fold line
- 75 front end of cover side flap
- 76 corner flap
- 30 78 corner flap fold line
- 82 lower edge of corner flap
- 84a lower edge portion of cover side flap
- 84b lower edge portion of cover side flap
- 95 height of rear wall

- 96 height of cover front flap
- 97 height of front wall
- 98 minimum height of cover side flap
- 99 maximum height of side wall panel
- 5 102 tab engaging means in alternate flip-tab format
- 104 hole or knock-out
- 106 alternate flip-tab format

DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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The instant invention constitutes, in large part, improvements intended for use in the box and blank disclosed in Correll U.S. Patent 6,547,125 granted April 15, 2003, and entitled "Material-saving Food Carton." As such, the structure of the

15 instant invention is quite similar to that of Correll '125, with deviations occurring in the particular areas of structural innovation. Therefore, the discussion and terminology disclosed

20 in Correll '125 is hereby included herein by this reference thereto. In addition, the instant invention also relates to a prior invention of mine disclosed in U.S. patent application serial number 10/431,984 filed May 8, 2003, and entitled

25 "Material-saving Blank and Box." As such, the structure of the instant invention is quite similar to that of patent application 10/431,984, with deviations occurring in the particular areas of structural innovation. Therefore, where applicable,

30 the disclosure, discussion, and terminology contained within this U.S. patent application serial number 10/431,984 is included herein by this reference thereto.

The preferred embodiment is created from corrugated board; however, other foldable materials can be used, as well. The intended use for the embodiment is for erecting into a pizza box. However, it will be appreciated, as the description proceeds, that my invention may be realized in different embodiments and used in differing applications.

FIG. 1 shows a first blank 10 and a second blank 10a oriented at 180 degrees to blank 10. Even though only a partial section of blank 10a is depicted, this blank is of identical structure to that of blank 10. FIG. 2 shows a fully-erected pizza box 12 created from blank 10. Referenced components are labeled in FIG. 1, particularly on the left side of the drawing; selected components are labeled in other Figures. Corresponding parts between drawings share a same reference numeral. It is noted that the invention is bilaterally symmetrical (i.e., having identical left and right sides). Therefore, pairs of opposing like components are to be found, with one item of the pair on each side of the blank or box. For simplicity of labeling, each component of the opposing pair will have the same reference numeral. Also, a pair may be indicated by a numeral on one side of the drawing only. Where this occurs, it is to be understood that the discussion also applies to the corresponding component on the other side, even though that component may not be numerically labeled.

Structure of the Embodiment

Referring in particular to FIG. 1 which shows blank 10, there is a bottom panel 20, a rear wall 22 hingedly attached to bottom panel 20 at a rear wall fold line 24, and opposing left and right side wall structures 30.

Each side wall structure 30 comprises a side wall panel 32 hingedly attached to bottom panel 20 at a side wall fold line 34 and disposed substantially perpendicular to rear wall 22, a front corner panel 36 hingedly attached to a front end of side wall panel 32 at a fold line, a connector panel 38 hingedly attached to a bottom edge 39 of front corner panel 36 at a fold line (also depicted by numeral 39) and to bottom panel 20 at a fold line 37. Side wall panel 32 has a free rear end 44 that is obliquely disposed, or at an acute angle, to side wall fold line 34. In addition, side wall panel 32 has a top edge comprising a plurality of top edge portions including top edge portions 48a and 48b. It is noted that top edge portion 48a is disposed parallel to side wall fold line 34 and top edge portion 48b is disposed non-parallel to fold line 34. Finally, it is noted that front corner panel 36 has a front end edge 40 and a tab-like projection 46 extending from front end edge 40 and disposed coplanar to corner panel 36.

A front wall structure 50 comprises a front wall 52 hingedly attached to bottom panel 20 at a front wall fold line 54 and left and right end flaps 55 hingedly attached to respective left and right

ends of front wall 52 at an end flap fold line 56 and to connector panel 38 at a connector panel fold line 57. Front wall 52 has a top edge 58 that is free of attachment.

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Several important features are noted regarding fold lines 56, 57. First, end flap fold line 56 is disposed at an obtuse angle to front wall fold line 54. Second, end flap fold line 56 is disposed at an acute angle to connector panel fold line 57. Third, connector panel fold line 57 is substantially aligned with front wall fold line 54. The optimal disposition of these fold lines, or the sizes of these angles, depends on several factors, including the type of corrugated board used in making the blank and the degree of inward-slanting angle desired on front wall 52 of the box. Therefore, the determination of the optimal disposition of the fold lines, or the degree of angle between fold lines, will likely need to be derived from trial-and-error testing, a function easily accomplished by any competent box designer skilled in the art.

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A cover 60 comprises a full-length cover panel 62 hingedly attached to rear wall 22 at a cover panel fold line 64, a cover front flap 66 hingedly attached to a front edge of cover panel 62 at a cover front flap fold line 68, and left and right cover side flap structures 70. Cover front flap 66 has a bottom edge 69.

It is further noted that cover 60 has pair of first and second tab engaging means 65. As

illustrated in FIG. 2, when blank 10 is erected into box 12, tab-like projections 46 engage with tab engaging means 65 to hold cover 60 in a closed disposition. In the preferred embodiment, each tab engaging means 65 constitutes an opening that is disposed in cover front flap 66 and has a top edge of the opening bordering cover panel 62. In FIG. 1 the opening is shown as a rectangular "hole" or a "knock-out" in the board. However, it is possible for the opening to take other shapes and configurations, particularly in the blank format.

For example, as illustrated in FIG. 3 which shows a partial section of a cover panel of a blank, an alternate configuration of opening can take the form of a flip-tab 102; that is, a tab that "flips open" when the blank is erected into a box or, specifically, when cover front flap 66 is folded perpendicular to cover panel 62. The result of this configuration is (a) a "hole," or tab engaging means, for engaging with tab-like projections 46 is created in cover front flap 66 and (b) flip-tab 102 remains coplanar to cover panel 62 in the box format and, thereby, projects forward from the front edge of the cover panel. This configuration tends to conceal or hide the hole that constitutes the tab engaging means.

Another alternate configuration of opening is illustrated in FIG. 4. This Figure, which shows a partial section of a cover panel of a blank, depicts a flip-tab and hole combination, wherein the tab engaging means comprises a "hole" or knock-out 104 and a flip-tab 106. With this, after the blank is

erected into a box and the flip-tab "flips open," the hole becomes larger. The result of this configuration is that flip-tab 106 does not extend as far past the front wall of the box as flip-tab 102 of the prior example but still hides the hole that constitutes the tab engaging means. The optimal position, size, shape, and configuration of the tab engaging means should be such that it provides an optimal degree of engagement with tab-like projections 46. This is best determined through trial-and-error testing, a function that's easily performed by any competent packaging designer skilled in the art.

Each cover side flap structure 70 comprises a cover side flap 72 hingedly attached to a side edge of cover panel 62 at a cover side flap fold line 74 that's disposed perpendicular to rear wall 22. The cover side flap has a front end 75 that is free of attachment. It also has a lower edge comprising a plurality of lower edge portions 84a and 84b. It is noted that lower edge portion 84a is disposed parallel to cover flap fold line 74 and lower edge portion 84b is disposed non-parallel to fold line 74.

Side flap structure 70 further comprises a free-swinging corner flap 76 hingedly attached to a rear end of cover side flap 72 at a corner flap fold line 78. It is noted that corner flap fold line 78 is disposed at an obtuse angle to cover side flap fold line 74. The exact degree of the angle is whatever is needed to retain cover side flap 72 in a proper (vertical) position after blank 10 has been

folded into box 12. The determination of this angle may require testing, a function easily accomplished by any competent box designer skilled in the art. It is also noted that corner flap 76 has a lower edge 82 that is non-aligned with lower edge portions 84a and 84b of cover side flap 72. The determination of the optimal angle between lower edge 82 and fold line 78 also may require trial-and-error testing.

At this point, several panel heights are noted. Specifically, rear wall 22 has a height 95. Cover front flap 66 has a height 96. Front wall 52 has a height 97. Cover side flap 72 has a minimum height 98. And side wall panel 32 has a maximum height 99. The minimum height of cover side flap 72 is the distance between fold line 74 and whatever portion of the lower edge of the side flap (i.e., 84a/b) that is closest to the fold line. The maximum height of side wall panel 32 is the distance between fold line 34 and whatever portion of the top edge of the side wall panel (i.e., 48a/b) that is farthest from the fold line.

It is further noted that minimum height 98 of cover side flap 72 is substantially less than maximum height 99 of side wall panel 32. This feature enables multiple adjacent blanks to be mated during manufacture for material savings. Minimum height 98 is also less than rear wall height 95 and front wall height 97.

In a five centimeter (two-inch) high pizza box in a format resembling that of the preferred embodiment, cover front flap height 96 will be

shorter than front wall height 97 by approximately twelve millimeters (one-half inch).

5 As can be seen in FIG. 2, end flaps 55 extend diagonally inward from front wall 52 and contain cover front flap 66 between them. Corner panels 36 extend diagonally forward from side wall panels 32 and front end 40 is adjacent to, or even abuts, cover front flap 66. Connector panels 38 overlies
10 bottom panel 20. Cover side flaps 72 are disposed exterior to side wall panels 32 (hence they're sometimes called exterior cover side flaps).

15 Although not seen in FIG. 2, it is noted that in the box format corner flaps 76 are perpendicular to the cover side flaps 72 and disposed between rear end 44 of side wall panel 32 and rear wall 22. Lower edge 82 of corner flap 76 contacts bottom panel 20, thereby holding cover side flaps 72 in vertical or
20 erected disposition. It is noted that this configuration is accomplished in spite of the fact that minimum height 98 of cover side flaps 72 is substantially less than height 95 of rear wall 22.

25 In the Philips et al. '054 box the height of the cover front flap is the same length as the height of the front wall. However, it is noted that in my invention height 96 of cover front flap 66 is substantially shorter than height 97 of front wall
30 52, thereby effecting a significant material savings.

Mating of Multiple Blanks During Manufacture

FIG. 1, which shows identical blanks 10 and 10a oriented at 180 degrees to one another, depicts the configuration of multiple units of the preferred embodiment in a mated configuration for efficient manufacture. Even though only a partial section of blank 10a is depicted, this blank is of identical structure to that of blank 10. Further, in the drawing a small gap exists between the blanks. This gap is provided for clarity of illustration. In the actual manufacture of these blanks this gap would likely not exist and, instead, the adjacent edges of the blanks probably would be in contact with one another. (However, in the preferred embodiment, a small knock-out would exist between corner flaps 76 of the adjacent blanks.) Specifically, lower edge 84a/b of cover side flap 72 of each blank contacts, or is disposed adjacent to, top edge 48a/b of side wall panel 32 of the other blank. It is further noted that the furthestmost extremities at each end of each blank (constituted by bottom edge 69 of cover front flap 66 and top edge 58 of front wall 52) are aligned with the furthestmost extremities of the adjacent blank.

Method for Erecting the Blank into the Box

Any method used for erecting the blank of Philips et al. '054 patent or Correll '125 patent into a box can be used for erecting the preferred embodiment into a box.

Specifically, the following method can be used, which is highly efficient.

5 First, position the blank so that it's horizontal and with the inside surface up and cover front flap 66 next to the abdomen.

10 Second, with your hands placed near the rear end of cover side flaps 72, simultaneously fold cover side flaps 72 inward and, with your index fingers, fold rear corner flaps 76 inward.

15 Third, while keeping your hands in that position (i.e., at the rear end of cover side flaps 72) and while holding the cover side flaps upright, with your fingers pull rear wall 22 upright.

20 Fourth, fold bottom panel 20 downward to about halfway closed.

25 Fifth, fold side wall panels 32 inward and position them interior to cover side flaps 72 and then fold bottom panel 20 down until the box is almost all the way closed.

Sixth, turn the partially-erected box to a vertical position with front wall structure 50 up.

30 Seventh, open cover panel 62 about three inches and then, with your index fingers, push both front corner panels 36 inward. This will cause front wall structure 50 to assume an upright position.

Eighth, fold cover front flap 66 down and

tuck it between end flaps 55 and close the box completely. This step can sometimes be most easily executed with the rear end of the box held against a surface. This can be accomplished by either (a)
5 holding the box vertically with the rear end resting on a table or (b) holding the box horizontally with the rear end held against your abdomen.

When sliding cover front flap 66 into closed
10 disposition (or between end flaps 55), bottom edge 69 of flap 66 slides over and past tab-like projections 46. Once cover panel 62 is in closed disposition, tab-like projections 46 engage with tab engaging means 65, or, specifically, with the lower
15 edge of the "hole" that constitutes tab engaging means 65 in the preferred embodiment, thereby holding cover 60 in closed disposition. Further, when tab-like projections 46 are of the proper size and configuration, bottom edge 69 of cover front
20 flap 66 will slide easily past the projections and the projections will readily engage with tab engaging means 65. The result will be that cover 60 will be held in place in the closed disposition but can be easily opened with a reasonable amount of
25 upward lifting force. If, during trial-and-error testing, it should turn out that it is difficult to close the cover onto the box or that the cover should not have the proper amount of cover closure resistance, simply adjust the size, shape, and/or
30 position of tab-like projections 46 (and/or perhaps the size and location of tab engaging means 65) until the desired degree of resistance is achieved.

Definition of Key Terms

5 Certain terms are used in the claims for describing the invention. To insure clarity of meaning those terms are now specifically defined as used herein.

10 A "full-length cover panel" is a cover panel that's hingedly attached to a wall of the box and extends from that wall substantially all the way to an opposing wall structure.

15 An "inward-slanting wall" is a wall disposed at an acute angle to a bottom panel.

A "free-swinging" flap or panel is one that is attached to only one other flap or panel after the blank has been erected into a box. An example is corner flap 76.

20 A "tab engaging means" is any structure or portion of a box cover that engages with a tab-like projection disposed at a front end edge of a panel of a side wall structure of the box. Example
25 embodiments of tab engaging means would be (a) an opening or hole in the cover front flap (illustrated in the instant invention), (b) an inward recession or depression along an edge of the cover front flap, and (c) an outward projection or tab along an edge
30 of the cover front flap.

Within the drawing of blank 10, a fold line between component parts of the invention is depicted with a dashed line. Within the context of this

invention, a fold line can be created by a number of means such as, for example, by a crease or score in the board, by a series of aligned spaced short slits in the board, by a combination of aligned spaced short and long slits, or by a combination of a slit and a score.

In some cases, when a longer slit is bounded on the ends by a series of shorter slits or a score, the longer slit may be slightly offset in alignment from the shorter slits or score for the purpose of creating a slot along the fold line when the blank is set up into a box. Such an offset slit may be referred to herein as a "slot-forming slit." Nonetheless, the entire combination of long and short slits is considered to constitute a single fold line unless otherwise indicated.

In addition, to create a fold line where one panel is folded 180 degrees to lay parallel on another panel, the fold line may constitute two narrowly-spaced parallel scores or series of aligned slits. In this case, the two narrowly-spaced parallel scores or series of aligned slits constitute a single fold line unless otherwise indicated.

In conclusion, as referred to herein, a fold line is any line between two points on the blank or box along which the board is intended to be folded when the blank is being erected into a box or when the box is being manipulated as described herein. The type of fold lines shown in the drawings are presently preferred but it will be appreciated that

other methods known to those skilled in the art may be used.

CONCLUSION, RAMIFICATIONS, AND SCOPE

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I have disclosed a pizza box and blank embodying one or more of the following structural features:

10 1) A unique cover-locking structure comprising (a) a tab-like projection extending from a front end edge of a panel of a side wall structure and (b) a tab engaging means in a cover of the box which engages with the tab-like projection, thereby
15 acting to hold the cover in a closed disposition; and

 2) A unique cover side flap structure constituting a structure similar to that shown in
20 Correll U.S. Patent 6,547,125 except with the height of the cover side flaps being substantially less than the height of the rear wall and/or side wall panels of the box blank, thereby providing a possible way to mate two adjacent blanks during the
25 manufacturing process.

 Within the foregoing discussion of the invention, the labeling of any components by a numerical adjective (i.e., "first," "second," etc.)
30 is for reference purposes only and does not denote any particular location of the components within the blank or box. Further, the term "hingedly attached" refers to two panels (or a panel and a flap) joined together at a fold line, and does not imply any

degree of movability of the panels in the erected box format.

5 The illustrated number, size, shape, type, and placement of components represent the preferred embodiment; however, many other combinations and configurations are possible within the scope of the invention.

10 The foregoing discussion has pertained mainly to packaging relatively flat food products such as pizza. However, it should be realized that my invention could be used for other purposes, as well. In conclusion, it is understood that the invention
15 is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiments but, on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims, which scope is to be accorded the broadest
20 interpretation so as to encompass all such modifications and equivalent structures as is permitted under the law.